Daniella Ramos

LENS 4

Reader-as-writer

The main thing that I learned from Hugo Cabret is the importance of images. Pictures can really tell a thousand words. The majority of the book is pictures. Some people need to see images to create the story inside of their heads. Also, all readers who read Hugo Cabret can have a common story in mind. I also think that one main thing about this book is that those who don’t enjoy reading can still enjoy this book because of the pictures. It gives an opportunity to create that story line in your head. The book teaches me that writing consists of more than just colorful vocabulary and flow of writing. A “good” book consists of illustrations as well.

My favorite image in this book is the one where Hugo is in the train station and he’s hiding from the officer behind the wall. Here we can see both the officer and Hugo’s point of view. We can see that Hugo is frightened a little but he does not know that the officer is there in such close proximity to him. The officer has a puzzled look on his face because although he wants to keep going to find this little boy, he is unsure of continuing the search because he does not know what is ahead or if Hugo is even there. As the reader we have the ability to infer these things and we have the advantage of understanding the story in our own way. This also feeds into creativity. As writers we want our readers to want to keep reading and the only way to do that is to have a story full of creativity. Illustrations are a big way of being creative. A picture can depict different meanings by different readers which is what is needed so the reader will want more. I can see a gloomy picture and think that it’s just a rainy day when another reader can see it and interpret it as a sad day for the character/s in the story.

Picture books teach children how to imagine and visualize the text. When you are older your mind can do this without the assistance of an illustration. Words occupy time rather than space and pictures occupy space rather than time. “When they look at the pictures in picture books, they are meant not just to do that but also to focus on how the pictures relate to the accompanying words and also to the pictures preceding and following them (Ch. 12 p. 278)”. With the help of illustrations the reader can match images to words connecting the story to it. A book would not be effective if it were full of pictures and nothing to connect it with. As a child reading picture books, it is the duty of the teacher to create words so the children can have a story to connect to but as we get older we read the words to make the stories of the pictures we see. With this book I learned mostly that illustrations are a big part of making a story come to life and making it interesting to all kinds of readers as well as those who don’t really enjoy reading.